(c) Issuance of commemorative postage stamp on Guru Arjun Dev is subject to the recommendations of the Philatelic Advisory Committee and other administrative considerations. Details of the stamps issued so far on the ten Sikh Gurus are as under:—

	Name of Sikh Gurus	Date of issue
(0	Guru Gobind Singh Ji	17.01.1967
(ii)	Guru Nanak Dev Ji	23.11.1969
(iii)	Guru Teg Bahadur Ji	16.12.1975
(iv)	Guru Amar Das Ji	21.12.1979

Telephone exchanges in Maharashtra

1654. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of all the district of Maharashtra particularly in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Pune, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more telephone exchanges in the said districts of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, a total of 4241 telephone exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are set up in rural areas of Maharashtra. Of these, 162 telephone exchanges are in rural areas of Ratnagiri, 99 in Sindhudurg and 210 telephone exchanges in rural areas of Pune. District-wise details are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) The rural areas of Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri and Pune SSAs in Maharashtra telecom circle are planned for complete coverage by CDMA Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology.

Statement

District-wise details of Telephone Exchanges set up in rural areas as on 30.06.2006 in Maharashtra

SI.N6.	Districts	Number of Exchanges
1.	Ahmednagar	311
2.	Akola	76
3.	Washim	49
4.	Amaravati	118
5.	Aurangabad	143
6.	Beed	127
7.	Bhandara	47
8.	Gondia	54
9.	Buldana	108
10.	Chandrapur	87
11.	Dhule	81
12.	Nandurbar	44
13.	Gadchiroli	42
14.	Jalgaon	193
15.	Jalna	90
16.	Kalyan	109
17.	Kolhapur	280
18.	Latur	138
19.	Nagpur	107
20.	Nanded	113
21.	Nasik	210

SI.No.	Districts	Number of Exchanges
22.	Osmanabad	82
23	Parbhani	57
24.	Hingoli	44
25	Pune	210
26.	Raigad	136
27.	Ratnagiri	162
28.	Sangli	311
29.	Satara	207
30.	Sindhudurg	99
31	Solapur	**235**
32.	Wardha	71
33.	Yeotmal	100
	TOTAL	4241

Funds collected from telecom operators

†1655. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Universal Obligation Fund has been created by charging 5 per cent amount from telecom operators from their annual turnover;

(b) if so, the total amount deposited in the said fund till June, 2006; and

(c) the average amount deposited in the said fund during each of the recent years and an average amount being spent annually?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.